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31 OCT 1978, DoDD 5200.10 gp-4; 31 Oct 1978,
DoDI 5230.24

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (21 Feb 67) FOR OT

24 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report, Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion 27th Artillery (4). (8)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Operational report for quarterly period ending 31 Oct 66.

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion 27th Artillery dated 31 October 1966. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19, by AMC in accordance with paragraph 6e of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

C. A. STANFIEL
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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(Continued on page 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
6TH BATTALION 27TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96289

AVGE-YC

31 October 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer
23d Artillery Group
ATTN: AVGE-C
APO 96289

Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVX-FA-C
APO 96227

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVC-DH
APO 96307

Commander - in - Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-HH
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

Inclosure 1

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SECTION I

3

(C) Significant Organization or Unit Activities

1. (U) Administration/Personnel

a. The mail routing arrangement has been revised. Formerly all batteries were serviced through APO 96307 in Saigon. Presently, each battery is serviced by the APO closest to the unit. It is estimated that mail will be delivered at least one day sooner under the present mail address arrangement.

b. Morale is higher this quarter. This is attributed to the increased operational and maintenance readiness posture, R&R Program, Special Services activities, and the newly implemented Battalion Building Program. Headquarters Battery EM Club, shower facilities and one BOQ are completed. An extension of the Headquarters building is under construction. The goal of the building program is to move all personnel "out from under canvas" before 1 April 1967.

c. Each battery established an Enlisted Men's Council which will address enlisted grievances to the Battalion Commander. This council was instituted so that enlisted personnel could present common grievances and propose resolutions.

2. (C) Intelligence

The aerial observation program discussed in previous reports continued; however it has been seriously hampered by the nonavailability of the rotary wing aircraft normally assigned to this organization. Due to the nonavailability of the rotary wing aircraft, the two fixed wing aircraft had to be utilized for missions other than the observation program. These missions included command and control, parts resupply to return artillery to operational status, and staff visits to outlying units.

3. (C) Training

In order to deliver accurate and timely artillery fires, the following safety procedures have been implemented.

- a. Gunners tests and FDC tests were initiated.
- b. Cannoneers drill is conducted daily.
- c. Firing data is double checked at Battalion and Battery FDC.
- d. The lay of the piece is checked by an officer or Chief of Firing Battery.

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31 October 1966

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e. Piece settings for each round is personally checked by the assistant XO or Chief of Firing Battery.

f. Prior to firing each round, the gunner reads back quadrant, deflection, and azimuth to the XO.

4. (C) Operations

a. 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (-) continued the mission of general support reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery. Task Force Haymaker ("B" Battery) deployed to ICTZ on 23 September 1966. "B" Battery closed Cam Lo on 2 October 1966 and assumed the mission of general support reinforcing the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines. The Task Force was attached to the 2d Battalion, 94th Artillery on 15 October 1966. During the month of October, Battery "A" was released from their mission of general support reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery and assigned the mission of general support reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 77th Artillery. Additionally, Battery "A" was assigned the mission of general support reinforcing the 54th Artillery Group. During the period 1 August 1966 to 31 October 1966, the Battalion fired 6093 missions, expending 6610 8" and 4180 175mm rounds.

b. Two resupply convoys and the following seven tactical operations were supported:

- (1) Cheyene (1 Aug - 4 Aug)
- (2) Evansville (5 Aug - 6 Aug)
- (3) Gallup (16 Aug - 21 Aug)
- (4) Amarillo (23 Aug - 2 Sep)
- (5) Lincoln (8 Sep - 12 Sep)
- (6) Longview (24 Sep - 30 Sep)
- (7) Tulsa (2 Oct - 15 Oct)

c. The Battalion continued to provide artillery support for Special Forces "A" teams located within range of the 175mm guns. During this period the Battalion supported six airmobile operations conducted by Special Forces teams located at Dong Xoai and Xom Cat. Few requests for

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fires were received from the detachment at Chon Thanh during this period. A Liaison Officer from this headquarters has been stationed at Xom Cat to assist in fire planning.

d. Other significant events during the period are as follows:

(1) "C" Battery was converted to a composite 8"/175mm Battery on 23 September 1966.

(2) This Battalion controlled the fires of two 105mm batteries and a 4.2 mortar platoon from 3 October to date of this report.

(3) A Liaison Officer was attached to the Special Forces detachment at Dong Xoai on 27 October 1966 to conduct research of effects of heavy artillery through double and triple jungle canopy growth. The project began on 29 October 1966. Estimated completion date is 1 November 1966.

5. (U) Maintenance

a. To improve the overall maintenance posture of the Battalion, a comprehensive maintenance program was initiated in mid-September. Battery and Battalion Maintenance Sections were collocated to insure proper supervision and utilization of all available maintenance personnel. In addition, organized formal motor stables are being conducted daily.

b. Maintenance records have been examined and instruction has been given on the proper methods of keeping records to all drivers and maintenance personnel. All log books are being maintained accurately as of 1 October 1966.

c. To assist in the establishment of an effective maintenance program, this organization solicited the assistance of the USARV Readiness Assistance Team (RAT). The team spent four days with the Battalion instructing on proper maintenance procedures and assisting in establishing correct maintenance records and PLL's.

6. (U) Logistics

a. Supply: All classes of supply are becoming more readily available as port facilities are improved and better stock accounting procedures are implemented at the Consolidated Supply Depot, Saigon Support Command.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

(1) Class I: All units are now receiving adequate rations. "A" rations are issued for at least two meals daily. Refrigeration facilities are still insufficient. There are seven sixty-five cubic foot reach-in refrigerators, five chest freezers and five ice machines on order for this organization.

(2) Class II: Direct exchange of individual clothing has not been effective until this past month due to inadequate supply. Now, all personnel are being issued replacement clothing.

(3) Class IV: Barrier materials are plentiful. Construction materials for troop cantonment are not being released for self-help projects. Engineer construction of troop billets will not be started for many months. After a year in country, troops are still in tents with pierced steel plank flooring as well as locally fabricated floors.

(4) Class V: Munitions are adequate and are stockpiled in sufficient quantity to suffice until the next resupply convoy. The MSR is secured one week in every six weeks.

b. Self-Help Construction: Additional buildings for administration, clubs, dayrooms and troop billets will be erected as materials are made available.

c. Maintenance of Artillery: Field maintenance of the self-propelled howitzers (8") and 175mm guns has shown some improvement since a direct support maintenance team has been attached to the Battalion Maintenance Section.

d. New Property Book: In September the Battalion S-4 Section established a separate property book and accompanying records for "B" Battery, 6/27th Artillery, which was deployed to I Corps. This battery was augmented with liaison, medical, survey and maintenance personnel and equipment. This equipment was transferred from other batteries within the Battalion.

7. (C) Aviation

a. During the reporting period, the Battalion Aviation Section flew 494 hours in the two O-1 observation aircraft. Visual reconnaissance and artillery adjustment missions accounted for 364 hours and command and control and administrative flights totaled 130 hours.

b. The section operated without its H-13 helicopter for the entire quarter due to maintenance problems and the loss of one helicopter

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pilot. As a result, it was necessary to utilize the O-1 aircraft for certain command and control and administrative flights therefore reducing our reconnaissance time from the previous quarter.

c. Night reconnaissance missions were continued with good results although they were minimized by the consistently bad weather during most of this period.

d. One new fixed wing aviator joined the section and three aerial observers were qualified during this period.

8. (U) Civic Action

The following civic action projects were accomplished by the Battalion during the reporting period.

a. Individual bags of candy and cookies were presented to each child at the Phuoc Vinh elementary school as a gift from the Battalion in celebration of their Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.

b. Personnel from the Battalion cut the grass and policed the grounds around the elementary school on several occasions.

c. Personnel from the Battalion repaired the classroom furniture at the elementary school prior to the school opening in August.

d. Pencils, tablets and other miscellaneous school supplies were presented to the headmaster at the elementary school for use by the teachers and children.

SECTION II

1. (C) Section II, Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. (U) Personnel

(1) Finance

(a) Item: Accurate and punctual payment of service members.

(b) Discussion: Pay complaints have been identified by sources outside the Battalion.

(c) Observation: Pay complaints must be identified expeditiously at battery level. These complaints will be directed to the S-1 section for action.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

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(2) R&R Policy

(a) Item: Decentralization of in-country pass approval.

(b) Discussion: Authority to approve 3-day, in-country passes was formerly retained by this headquarters. This negates a battery commander's ability to approve passes in recognition of individual achievements.

(c) Observation: Extending approval authority for passes to the unit commanders will enhance the responsiveness of battery personnel to the unit commander.

b. (C) Operations

Positioning of heavy artillery.

(1) Item: Enemy forces are using existing roads and trails outside the range capabilities of heavy artillery units.

(2) Discussion: The Battalion renders continuous support to outlying Special Forces Camps. Numerous requests for fire support have been received outside the range of the 175mm gun. Road conditions and lack of security have prevented moving units out of base camps. Therefore, the VC have determined the limitations of our heavy artillery units.

(3) Observation: Heavy artillery units should be displaced frequently to vary range capabilities.

c. (C) Intelligence

(1) Accurate and timely intelligence reports.

(a) Item: Intelligence reports received at this headquarters continue to be old and outdated. The only useful purpose of these old reports is for the card file and intelligence map.

(b) Discussion: Intelligence reports must be accurate and timely to enable the heavy artillery units to perform accurate firing on these targets. Many of the missions fired are unobserved and the effect cannot be adjusted to compensate for inaccurate locations.

(c) Observation: Continued emphasis is required on accurate and timely intelligence reports.

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31 October 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

(2) Observation period.

(a) Item: The most effective aerial observation periods for moving targets appear to be early morning just prior to daylight and early evening just prior to beginning of darkness and continuing for about two hours.

(b) Discussion: Most of the moving targets, i.e. vehicles, personnel, etc., have been detected by this unit during the early morning and early evening hours. Use of the starlight scope in the O-1 observation aircraft enables the observer to detect camp fires, lights and moving objects during darkness without alarming the targets to his presence.

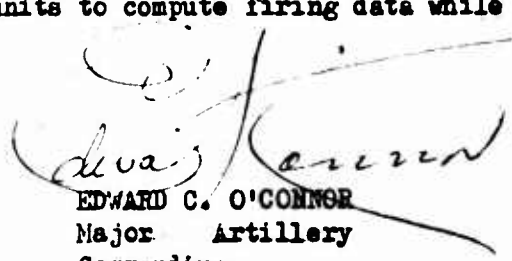
(c) Observation: Full use should be made of the advantages of darkness and use of the starlight scope to observe the enemy activities without being seen by him.

2. (C) Section II, Part II, Recommendations.

a. The procurement and allocation of wooden firing pads for M107 and M110 pieces should be expedited in the interest of operational maintenance and serviceability of the weapons systems.

b. Heliborne fire teams should be dispatched to target areas following heavy artillery concentrations to determine accurate post strike surveillance of target. This procedure would insure that the engaged target had actually been destroyed and would identify residual elements of the target remaining after the end of mission.

c. Star and Red Haze reports should be forwarded directly to the artillery battalion controlling fires in the range of the identified target. This procedure would speed reaction time of firing units by enabling firing pieces to relay on target and units to compute firing data while target clearance is being processed.


EDWARD C. O'CONNOR
Major Artillery
Commanding

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AVGE-C (31 Oct 66) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 23D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96289, US Forces, 11 November 1966

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO US Forces 96227

1. (U) The quarterly report submitted by the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, is adequate.

2. (U) Ref Section I, para 3, Training. The emphasis on training of gun section and fire direction center personnel has been instrumental in reducing or eliminating the possibility of errors in artillery firing.

3. (C) Section I, para 4d (3). Artillery effects in heavy jungle canopy. Unit will, based on results of tests to date, continue the test to obtain additional data from which valid conclusions can be drawn.

4. (U) Ref Section I, para 6a (1). The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, has submitted requisitions for the following refrigeration equipment:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>QUANTITY</u> | <u>REQ NO</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Reach-In Refrigerator (65 Cu Ft) | 7 | 6178-0069 |
| Chest Freezer (20 Cu Ft) | 5 | 6285-0068 |
| Ice Machine (400 Lbs) | 5 | 6148-0058 |

The Battalion has received two ice machines with three due out. The unit has been instructed to initiate follow-up action on the refrigerators and freezers.

5. (U) Ref Section I, para 6a (3). Construction materials for the Base Camp development of the Phuoc Vinh complex are being used to provide Minimum Essential Requirements. Materials for troop billet construction on a self help basis will be made available after all Minimum Essential Requirements are met. Unit has been advised that any problems arising from this construction schedule can best be resolved by the unit's direct coordination with the Base Development Officer for the Phuoc Vinh complex.

6. (U) Ref Section II, part I, para 1b, Operations. Positioning of heavy artillery. Heavy artillery is displaced whenever the tactical situation dictates, provided road and bridge conditions and security permit. In the instance of this particular unit, bridge conditions preclude movement from base camp farther than six (6) kilometers without major engineer assistance. Plans are currently being made to reposition composite heavy artillery units to increase coverage capability.

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AVGE-C
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

1st Ind

11 November 1966

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7. (C) Ref Section II, Part I, para 1c (1). Concur with the observation. However, it should be noted that the preponderance of the unobserved firing (Harassment and Interdiction) done by this battalion is delivered on targets assigned by II Field Force Vietnam Artillery which has early access to evaluated intelligence information.

8. (C) Ref Section II, Part I, para 1c (2). Concur. This headquarters has requested issue of the Starlight Scopes for use by aerial observers. This battalion presently has two Starlight Scopes on hand with no additional requisitions submitted for additional instruments. This unit has been instructed to submit requisitions for additional instruments as required.

9. (U) Ref Section II, Part II, para 2a. Concur. A schedule has been established for the prefabrication of wooden firing platforms by the 159th Engineer Group. The pads are presently being prefabricated and will be delivered to unit locations for installation upon completion.

10. (U) Ref Section II, Part II, para 2b. Non Concur. Air observers from unit resources are employed to observe artillery fires and determine effects. Targets can be attacked as necessary at direction of air observer to achieve desired results. Heliborne fire teams are not immediately available for purpose recommended.

11. (U) Ref Section II, Part II, para 2c. Non Concur. SLAR and Red Haze targets are presently forwarded to 23d Artillery Group by each division artillery and by II Field Force Vietnam Fire Support Coordination Element. This information is immediately dispatched to the unit with the capability to attack it.



THOMAS H. SAYES
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFB-FACO (31 Oct 66) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV ARTY, APO 96266

23 NOV 1966

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266

Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN:
AVC-DH, APO 96307

Commander-in-Chief, USARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-MH, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The Operational Report submitted by the 6th Battalion, 27th
Artillery is considered adequate.

2. (U) Reference paragraph , 1st Indorsement and Section II, Part
I, paragraph 1b basic report. Concur with 1st Indorsement.

3. (U) Reference paragraph 11, 1st Indorsement and Section II,
Part II c basic report. Concur with 1st Indorsement.

4. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 1c(1). This head-
quarters is making every effort to insure that intelligence information
is forwarded to subordinate units as expeditiously as possible. A new
policy has recently been instituted whereby the S2 Section dispatches a
daily intelligence summary to both of the artillery groups. In addition,
the G2 Section, II FFORCEV has been passing targets to the FSCE for
immediate attack by artillery as the targets develop.

5. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 1c(2). Concur.
This headquarters recommended an allocation of four Starlight Scopes
per Artillery Group, in conjunction with a study conducted by G3 II
Field Force Vietnam on Night Observation Devices. The recommend-
ation was approved and the scopes will be issued.



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AVFB-FACO (31 Oct 66) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

6. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 2b. Concur. Because of jungle cover and conditions of visibility, the aerial observer is frequently unable to render effective surveillance. Although shortage of helicopter assets probably most often will not permit on-the-ground surveillance by light fire teams, this type surveillance is desirable when assets permit.

Charles M. Mizell
CHARLES M. MIZELL
Colonel, Artillery
Acting Commander

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AVFBC-H (31 October 66) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ II Field Force Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96266 2 JAN 1967

THRU: Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVC-DH, APO 96307


Commander in Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-MH, APO 96588

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Dept of the
Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report for Period
Ending 31 October 1966 submitted by Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th
Artillery and concurs in the comments contained both in the basic
document and the 1st and 2nd indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


WILLIAM K. HAGY
Major ARMOR
Act Asst AG.

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AVHGC-DH (31 Oct 66) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)


HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 12 JAN 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1966 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery as indorsed.

2. Reference Paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement: Referenced items are not available in RVN or CONUS. It is estimated that these items will be available in CONUS about 1 February 1967.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


B. J. THORNTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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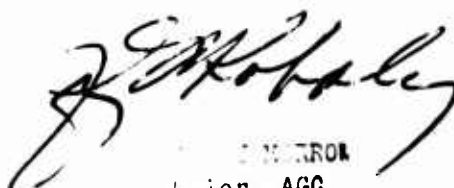
GPOP-OT(31 Oct 66) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 6th Bn 27th Arty

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 14 FEB 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


Major, AGC
Asst AG

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